

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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PASS TO ROBERT MORRIS/OES/SEP/APT

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: OSCI, PL, EFIN, OGEN

SUBJ: POLISH PROPOSAL TO REVIEW PER-DIEM RATES

REF: WARSAW 2698

1. PURSUANT TO OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON US COUNTERSIGNER EXPENSES AND US MONITOR TRAVEL (REF), WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE A LETTER WHICH OUTLINES A POLISH PROPOSAL TO REVISE A) THE RATES OF PER DIEM FOR POLISH SCIENTISTS TRAVELING ABROAD, AND B) THE PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING FUNDS FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL AND SUPPORT. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF A LETTER FROM VICE DIRECTOR KAPUSTA TO SCIATT KSANDER.

2. BEGIN TEXT: A. WITH REFERENCE TO OUR DISCUSSIONS HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AT THE END OF MARCH, I WISH TO ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF THE AMOUNT OF PER DIEM PAYABLE TO POLISH SCIENTISTS TRAVELING ABROAD IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC
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PROGRAMS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLISH-US COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. B) UNDER THE CURRENT PRACTICE, SCIENTISTS TRAVELING ABROAD RECEIVE FROM YOU TWO SO-CALLED "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" LETTERS, ONE OF WHICH COVERS THE COST OF AIRFARES AND THE OTHER SUPPORTS COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE VISIT. THE RATES WHICH ARE USED TO CALCULATE THE COST OF MEALS AND HOTELS ABROAD DIFFER FROM THE RATES

USED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY POLISH INSTITUTIONS. C) SINCE THE MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE JOINT FUND WAS FINANCED BY EQUAL POLISH AND US CONTRIBUTIONS, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT POLISH SCIENTISTS MUST BE BOUND BY POLISH REGULATIONS AND THE AMOUNT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO COVER THE COST OF THEIR VISIT ABROAD MUST CONFORM TO THE RATES ESTABLISHED BY THE POLISH AUTHORITIES. D) I WISH TO REMIND YOU THAT THE FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR THESE COSTS FOR EACH SEPARATE RESEARCH PROJECT ARE TRANSFERRED BY THE JOINT FUND TREASURER TO THE COORDINATING UNITS, WHICH, IN TURN, INSTRUCT A BANK TO ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO TRAVELERS. E) IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING PROCEDURE FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS, I BELIEVE THE LETTER WHICH YOU ISSUE FOR THE SUPPORT COSTS IS STRICTLY A FORMALITY. FOR THE SAKE OF SIMPLIFYING THE EXISTING PROCEDURE, I WOULD PROPOSE THAT YOU RECONSIDER THE USEFULNESS OF CONTINUING TO ISSUE THIS DOCUMENT. I WOULD SUGGEST ALSO THAT YOU CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF WAIVING THE ISSUANCE OF THE "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" LETTER DEALING WITH THE COST OF TRAVEL, SINCE THE NATIONAL BANK OF POLAND SUBMITS TO YOU A MONTHLY REPORT ON THE AMOUNTS DISBURSED FOR THIS PURPOSE. F) SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF POLISH SCIENTISTS TAKES PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COST ESTIMATES AGREED IN RESEARCH PROJECTS, THERE IS NO DANGER THAT THE FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR THIS PURPOSE COULD BE MISUSED. G) I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT, IF YOU ACCEPT MY PROPOSALS, THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE COORDINATING UNITS FULLY CONTROL TRAVEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROJECT COST ESTIMATES. H) I AM CONVINCED THAT YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF MY PROPOSALS WILL ALSO RELIEVE YOUR OFFICE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH FORMAL MATTERS. I) I WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU IN THIS MATTER. RESPECTFULLY. END TEXT.

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3. KAPUSTA HAS PROMISED TO GIVE US A TABLE OF PER-DIEM RATES AND THE POLISH REGULATIONS WHICH GOVERN THEM.

4. COMMENT: THE POLES CLAIM THAT THE SINGLE RATE OF PER DIEM (\$35) ESTABLISHED BY THE US GOVERNMENT IS INSUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COST OF MEALS AND LODGINGS IN A NUMBER OF CITIES IN THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE. ALSO, GOP PER DIEM RATES MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE COST OF HOTELS AND MEALS. WE BELIEVE ANOTHER REASON THE POLES ARE SEEKING A RATE REVISION IS TO BRING THEIR PRACTICE INTO LINE WITH PART B, PARAGRAPH 12, OF THE DAVIES-KRZAK AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 11, 1976, WHICH OFFERS AMERICAN TRAVELERS AN OPTION FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENSES.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT CONCERNING THE LEGALITY OF TRANSFERRING THE "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" FUNCTION TO THE POLES. WE DO NOT FAVOR SUCH A SHIFT. WE BELIEVE THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS A USEFUL ADMINISTRATIVE DEVICE WHICH ALLOWS US TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE MANAGEMENT OF PROJECT TRAVEL FUNDS ON BEHALD

OF THE US TECHNICAL AGENCIES.

6. IF WE DO NOT GIVE THE POLES A RESPONSE ON THE REVISION OF
THE PER DIEM RATES AND THE PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING TRAVEL FUNDS
BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION OF THE JOINT BOARD, THEY WILL INCLUDE
THESE SUBJECTS IN THE AGENDA EITHER AS SEPARATE ITEMS OR UNDER
"OTHER BUSINESS." END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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